

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6758

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UK IMPORT CONTROLS

1. DURING NOVEMBER 19 COMMONS DEBATE FOLLOWING
QUEEN'S SPEECH, PRIME MINISTER MADE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE IMPORT CONTROLS.

"ONE FURTHER POINT CAME UP ON WHICH THE
HOUSE WILL WANT ME TO COMMENT AND TO
WHICH THE RIGHT HON. LADY (MRS. THATCHER)
REFERRED. ON THE ACTION TO DEAL WITH
ABNORMAL AND DAMAGING IMPORTS WHERE THEY
THREATEN EVEN THE EXISTENCE OF SECTORS OF
INDUSTRY IN THIS COUNTRY SUFFERING NOW FROM
IMPORTS BUT VIABLE AND COMPETITIVE IN RECOVERY
CONDITIONS, I TOLD MY COLLEAGUES AT
RAMBOUILLET EXACTLY WHAT I SAID IN THE HOUSE
ON 4TH NOVEMBER, AND WHAT I SAID WAS FULLY

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UNDERSTOOD AT RAMBOUILLET.

"BUT NO ACTION TAKEN ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE ABSOLVES US FROM THE NECESSITY OF TAKING EVERY POSSIBLE ACTION TO STRENGTHEN BRITAIN IN THE FACE OF THE WORLD AND NATIONAL PROBLEMS. IT IS OUR OWN DUTY TO OUR OWN PEOPLE AND IT IS EQUALLY OUR DUTY TO OUR TRADING PARTNERS."

2. EDWARD SHORT, LEADER OF THE COMMONS, SAID ON NOVEMBER 20 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A "STATEMENT ON SELECTIVE IMPORT CONTROLS IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

3. PRIME MINISTER'S NOVEMBER 4 STATEMENT TO COMMONS IS AS FOLLOWS: "WE DO NOT RULE OUT PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES SUFFERING OR THREATENED WITH SERIOUS INJURY AS A RESULT OF INCREASED IMPORTS. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A GENERALISED SYSTEM OF IMPORT CONTROLS ON BEHALF OF OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OR ANYTHING ELSE IS RIGHT FOR BRITAIN. IT WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON OUR EXPORTS. MY RIGHT HON. FRIEND (SEC. OF STATE FOR TRADE) EMPHASISED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION--AS HE DID DURING HIS VISITS TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LAST WEEK--TO CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO SUSTAIN WORLD TRADE. BUT, AS HE POINTED OUT: 'WE CANNOT STAND IDLY BY IN A SITUATION THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF A MAJOR BRITISH INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY THAT WE SHALL NEED IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE WORLD DEPRESSION GIVES PLACE TO RECOVERY IN THIS AND OTHER COUNTRIES.'"

RICHARDSON

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